

Response to Comments – November 23, 2011

Basin Plan Amendment - Pesticide Prohibition & Exemption Criteria

(Comment deadline 12 p.m., November 14, 2011)

General Public – B.J. Hodge

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/comments111411/hodge_comments.pdf

Comments	Response
<p>November 14, 2011</p> <p>California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150</p> <p><u>Re: Public Comment - Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to Allow Pesticide Use in Lake Tahoe</u></p> <p>As a resident and homeowner in Tahoe Keys, and direct stakeholder who would be affected by proposed amendments referenced above, like many homeowners in the area I have concerns about the health effects of such pesticide and herbicide use in Lake Tahoe and its adjoining waters.</p> <p>My concerns include the close and immediately adjoining proximity to the Tahoe Keys water lagoons of the three Tahoe Keys water wells that provide potable water to the 1,500+ homes and businesses served by these wells and the possible effects that the introduction of herbicides or pesticides in these lagoons might have on these wells, located in a downward trajectory of the lagoons to be treated with these chemicals. Is there any chance of proposed herbicides so used affecting the water quality of these water wells?</p> <p>Another concern is the health of swimmers, boaters, paddleboarders, children, pets, and others using the Tahoe Keys lagoons for daily water recreation, including myself, family, guests, and pets. Are the pesticides proposed 100% safe for such contact and occasional ingestion?</p> <p>It is reasonable to ask that use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical treatments in Lake Tahoe and its adjoining waters be approved only upon study and certification by an unrelated, third-party, unbiased, disinterested, arms-length, certified lab that attests with no uncertainty that uses of such chemicals are 100% safe for human, animal, and wildlife contact and ingestion. Some households at Lake Tahoe receive their drinking water directly and untreated from the lake's shorelines. Lake Tahoe's status as an Outstanding National Resource justifies the need for extraordinary care, caution, and protection. It is reasonable to expect that a full Environmental Impact Study examining all aspects of this amendment change is in order, before such proposed amendments are enacted.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>B.J. Hodge 402 Wedeln Ct. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150</p>	<div data-bbox="1157 334 1917 792" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>BJH R1: There is a chance that the use of pesticides may affect the water quality of the Tahoe Keys wells. It is speculative to specify the chance, given the range of factors of influence associated with an individual project. A non-exhaustive list of these factors includes pesticide properties, ambient conditions, substrate, well depth, proximity, and pump rate. Project proponents are required to provide information on the pesticide proposed for use, including the chemical composition, fate and transport, and risks to water supplies. Proponents are also required to include water suppliers in their public notification plans, including any water use restrictions or precautions. Proponents will provide potable drinking water where necessary.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1157 870 1917 1333" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>BJH R2: It would be speculative to assert that the pesticides proposed are 100% safe for such contact, as the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan does not specify what pesticides may be used. Rather, it requires that project proponents disclose information to the Water Board, in accordance with the required criteria specified in Attachment 2 of the SED. The Water Board then retains discretion to approve or deny exemption requests. If approved, project proponents must provide notification to all potentially affected parties using the water for any beneficial use, including contact and non-contact recreation. Proponents must also follow a monitoring plan and mitigation plan to assure safe compliance with permit requirements, protect the public, and address potential impacts.</p> </div>

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